

**SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER**  
**SECOND QUARTER REPORT-FY 2002**  
For the Period January 1 - March 31, 2002

**Submitted by:** John Hunter, Division Director, Fisheries Resources Division

**Title of Accomplishment or Milestone:** Complete and present results of workshop on the recovery of white abalone and CalCOFI Symposium Oct 2001.

**Current Status:** Completed.

**Background Information:** The Department of Commerce listed white abalone under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on June 28, 2001. Under ESA the National Marine Fisheries Service is required to develop a draft rebuilding plan by December 31, 2002 and a final plan within one year of that date. A workshop was held at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, November 8-9 2001, to evaluate approaches for rebuilding white abalone, identify gaps in knowledge and technology, and recommend an optimal strategy. International experts in abalone biology and culture attended the workshop. The report of that workshop is now in draft form and will be circulated among the attendees before final publication as a NOAA Technical Memorandum.

**Purpose of Activity:** To engage the participation and knowledge of foreign experts on abalone enhancement to guide the formation of the rebuilding plan.

**Description of Accomplishment and Significant Results:** The consensus of the panel was that hatchery production and stocking of cultured white abalone juveniles was the preferred option for rebuilding the population. The belief of the group was that if left alone the species would disappear in U.S. waters because it was composed of reproductively isolated old adults. Translocation of the old adults to form a breeding colony was rejected because of difficulty in acquiring sufficient numbers of the surviving adults to establish a successful breeding colony and because the entire concept was untried and risky. Hatchery production and stocking has a much higher chance of success because fewer adults are needed for brood stocks than for translocated colonies, and the knowledge and technology needed in spawning, larval culture, juvenile growout and stocking are either well established for white abalone or can be developed by analogy with other abalone species where stocking has been done successfully.

**Significance of Accomplishment:** Results of this workshop will guide the development of the NMFS rebuilding plan for this endangered species.

**Problems:** None

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